



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT SIGNED FOR TETON HELIBASE RELOCATION**

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) titled *Teton Helibase Relocation*. The Teton Helibase is located at the Jackson Hole Airport within Grand Teton National Park. Intermountain Region Deputy Director, Michael Snyder, signed the FONSI on December 2, 2002.

Alternative A, the preferred alternative, was selected for implementation after careful review. Under Alternative A, construction of a permanent helicopter operations center at the Jackson Hole Airport will occur to facilitate Teton Interagency activities. The permanent Teton Helibase location will be immediately adjacent to the temporary location on the east side of the airport, north of the terminal; the helibase is outside of the airport development subzone. Five acres will be required to accommodate the proposed facility. Within the designated five acres, there will be an office building of approximately 2500 square feet, a 5000 square foot hangar for housing the helicopters, three helicopter-landing pads, and a parking lot.

Alternative A accomplishes the combined goal of the NPS and the United States Forest Service to develop a permanent facility for air operations that assist multi-agency coordinated helicopter missions during local emergencies; these missions include fire management actions and search and rescue activities. Alternative A fulfills the needs of the federal agencies, meets county zoning and/or airport requirements, and provides the best economical choice. Alternative A is the environmentally preferred alternative; it will cause the least amount of disruption to existing human use in the area and minimize effects on the environment by balancing natural resource considerations with safety requirements for helicopter operations. Construction of the Teton Helibase will begin in the spring of 2003.

Copies of the FONSI may be requested by calling the Superintendent's Office at 307/739-3410 or by writing Superintendent, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. Copies are also available at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. Additionally, the document is posted online at: [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm)

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